The SCOOP

The Happenings of Congregation Beth Israel

Summer 2022

Ah, summer. The season when many get to embrace a laid-back mentality and even let responsibilities wane while looking for fun things to do.

While you have been engaging in vacation mode these last months, the CBI

Team had been very busy arranging opportunities to bring our community together and encourage its growth.

Our first "CBI-on-the Road" Kabbalat Shabbat on June 17th was a great success. With appreciation to Aileen and Lenny Goldberg for procuring our unique venue, we welcomed the Sabbath Bride and lots of new people at Blossom Brides in Rockville Centre. The salon was transformed into a beautiful spiritual space with the leadership of Rabbi Abe and guest musician Matt Check. The duo energized everyone's soul with song and Shabbat spirit. It was surely a feel-good Friday night service for the crowd who also enjoyed international nibbles and wine at the oneg.

On July 21, friends of CBI and congregants celebrated our beloved Muriel Levine on the occasion of her 98th birthday. Judi Slatsky organized a very special luncheon celebration to honor Muriel, who also attended with her daughter and granddaughter. The speeches, accolades and heartfelt sentiments bestowed on Muriel truly touch her heart. Muriel admitted to the room that this gathering was her very first and only birthday party; clearly well deserved and long overdue. Mazel Tov, Muriel.

On July 16th, the CBI community welcomed a sizable crowd to its sanctuary for a Special Shabbat Saturday morning service. With many new guests in attendance, voices from diverse generations harmonized as one with Rabbi Abe's guitar playing and rousing versions of psalms and prayers. The spiritual high and warm feelings continued following the service at a buffet Kiddush luncheon.

Looking forward to the month of August, and by popular demand, we are resuming monthly Kabbalat Shabbat services in our sanctuary. Mark your calendars for Friday, August 19th at 7:30 pm and plan to join us at CBI. (Scroll down for more details.) As always, we ask you to encourage friends and family to attend with you, so they can get a taste of our " secret sauce." The sauce that welcomes everyone with an open heart, warmth and friendship.

Please RSVP via text or by calling 917-446-7983 on or before August 17 to be sure you get your slice of cake at the oneg!

Continue to make the most of this summer season with beach excursions, al fresco dining and weekend getaways, but remember, we'll be keeping the light on for you at CBI.

Keeping it light and healthy this summer.
Try out this scrumptious Sephardic recipe. ***Click here for details.***

In Memorium
ROBIN KRAUSS

When I first became the Rabbi of CBI, I never in a million years thought I would be standing here not more than four years later at the funeral of Robin, such a vibrant and friendly person who welcomed me into the community from that very first night that I was there and throughout the rest of my time here, even with her and Richie moving to Delaware about a year later.

And in my world, the world in which I was introduced to her, Richie and Robin are one and the same. I knew them as such, as one unit, and I can't think of them separately, and I was witness to the love and the strong and seasoned relationship that they had. They fully understood each other and they fully respected each other.

And I always knew that Congregation Beth Israel was more Richie's thing than it was hers—he was the president after all—but she was always in perfect lockstep with him, and he always sang her praises to me about how she was a spouse that supported her husband's projects—and shenanigans—all the way.

That was obvious. If you know Richie, I mean, know him well, you'd know what kind of person Robin was by always being at his side no matter what he threw out there. I was witness to this and always marveled at her quiet strength and fortitude as she navigated Richie and all that he brought to the table and matched him move for move, only she did it in a manner that was quite the opposite of his MO.

I still remember the first thing that I remember Robin for. It was very early on in my tenure, in that pre-covid year, one that is so hard to remember now, when I gave my first educational class in person—not on Zoom, this was before Zoom meant anything to these congregants but the cartoon sound of a sports car—and Robin was there taking a video of the proceedings.

That night, she uploaded a part of the video to Facebook and sang my praises, saying "watch our new rabbi, Rabbi Abe, teach an amazing class," or something to that effect. I remember watching that and thinking " what a kind woman." Here I am new to this community and there was someone welcoming me in such a warm way. It struck a chord and here I am repeating it, unfortunately, today.

But that's the kind of woman Robin was. Caring, warm, a great friend, loyal, and always there for you. She was very glad to hand over the reins of the Facebook updates to someone else when I suggested it, but until I got there and took stock of the social media of the synagogue, it was Robin who was holding down the fort until reinforcements arrived.

It was the same with her being Recording Secretary of the synagogue. It's not like she asked for the job as some might have. She was not into titles or honors or accolades. She did the work, and if she saw that a place needed filling because no one was going to do it, she was there to do it. No questions asked, no moping. Just get the job done.

In retrospect, in the last two months, I saw Robin more than I would have wanted to because two of the times were to see her in a most vulnerable position that no one should ever have to see their friends in.

But let me first tell you about the time I saw her before she was in a vulnerable position.

Just about two months ago, we had a Yom Hashoah/Holocaust Remembrance Day commemoration where we heard the story of a holocaust survivor and celebrated a deceased member who was a Holocaust survivor and who bequeathed part of his estate to the synagogue. Richie and Robin came up from Delaware, and on the way back from the cemetery from the unveiling of the above-mentioned member before the commemoration, Robin and Richie said we should stop for some lunch—just the three of us—before we moved on to the Yom Hashoah ceremony.

We found this hole-in-the-wall diner off of the Southern State Parkway and we partook in a meal that I will remember for the rest of my life. Not that we ate anything special—there was some lousy pizza and things of that nature—but I

will remember conversing with Robin, as she and I filled each other in on the happenings of our lives. At that point, I did not know that anything monumental was amiss with her health besides her "normal" maladies that she bore and didn't complain about, though as Richie told me later, there were signs pointing in that direction. I remember thinking at that time that I was so glad that her health was on a much better trajectory than the year before, and that made me feel so happy for her.

About a month ago, things started taking a turn for the worse, she was in and out of the hospital, and I decided to pay her a visit down in Delaware. Of course, I would have liked to have seen her in her house, and she would have definitely preferred that instead of the hospital as she was so clear in communicating, but the hospital is where that visit took place. We spent several hours talking and I played many songs for her on the guitar, and as she told me later, she enjoyed those hours a lot more than she thought she would (who wants to spend 4 hours with their Rabbi). She told me about her family, told me about her illness, talked about Richie and their beautiful life in Delaware that we now know has been tragically cut way too short, and we talked about the bigger issues, of life and death and God. Robin knew what was happening to her and she was getting ready.

One part of the conversation sticks out for me as her Rabbi and as the person she and Richie and the community hired to bring rejuvenation to CBI. The conversation was so real and raw that in a moment of my own vulnerability with her I told her that the job that I was given and the charge that I was assigned—to bring life to a synagogue that needed so much new life and that has so many challenges, coupled with the strains and pains that Covid has put us through—I told her that sometimes, in moments of doubt, I just don't think I can accomplish the goal. That it is just too hard.

Without skipping a beat, Robin encouraged me to keep going, she told me that I had come so far and now is not the time to stop. She pointed out all the good things that were going right and she said that she believes in my abilities and that it can be done. That it must be done.

That was Robin. Never a complainer—though God knows she had much to complain about as her health issues plagued her for many years—never a quitter, just someone who quietly kept the trains running without ever mentioning that she was the one running them. There was a certain humility and quiet dignity about her, a warmth that exuded itself on the outside, and whoever was there to be on the receiving end of that warmth is oh so lucky.

In the last hours of her life on this earth, I was privileged and honored to be at her side, together with her husband, Richie, and her stepson, Brian. Those moments are precious beyond description, and all I can say about that is I would never want to do that again on one level, and on another, that there's nothing more powerful and visceral than being in the presence of someone leaving this earth. Those moments will be forever etched in my memory, including the pain, the hurt, the exasperation, the frustrations, and the theological questions that are elicited by watching someone

breathing their last breaths on earth and observing a life cut down by the ravages of cancer. Robin had so much more life to give, so much more happiness to give to Richie, but, unfortunately, the mysteries of life and death we will never know. This is the purview of God, of a higher power, these are the things we wonder about every time we come to a funeral. Why is it that some die so early from disease, while others live till 100 with nary a malady? These questions are unanswerable—beyond us, if you will— but the dialogue with God must continue. As Richie told me, despite the fact that he, as a scientist, does not believe, or doubts, that anything happens after death, he's hoping that there's an afterlife where Robin's spirit and neshama will live on, and that hope is hopefully something that will enable him to endure through the weeks and months of grieving ahead. That, and much love and support from all of us.

The Hebrew name of Robin is Rochel Leah, which are the two names of the last of our matriarchs, Rachel and Leah, the two wives of Jacob, also known as Israel, the namesake of the Jewish people till today.

Rachel and Leah represent two personalities and two modes of living life. Rachel was the more desirable one, the more feisty of the two, and who was jealous of her sister because she was fruitful and had many children. Leah was the more timid one, the one who was essentially rejected by Jacob at first when he found out that his father-in-law offered him Leah instead of Rachel. There was some tension in the house, but it seems to have worked itself out. The two sisters, despite their rivalry, in the end, seem to have made up and lived a life of homeostasis, each one contributing their strengths to the household as a healthy household should be.

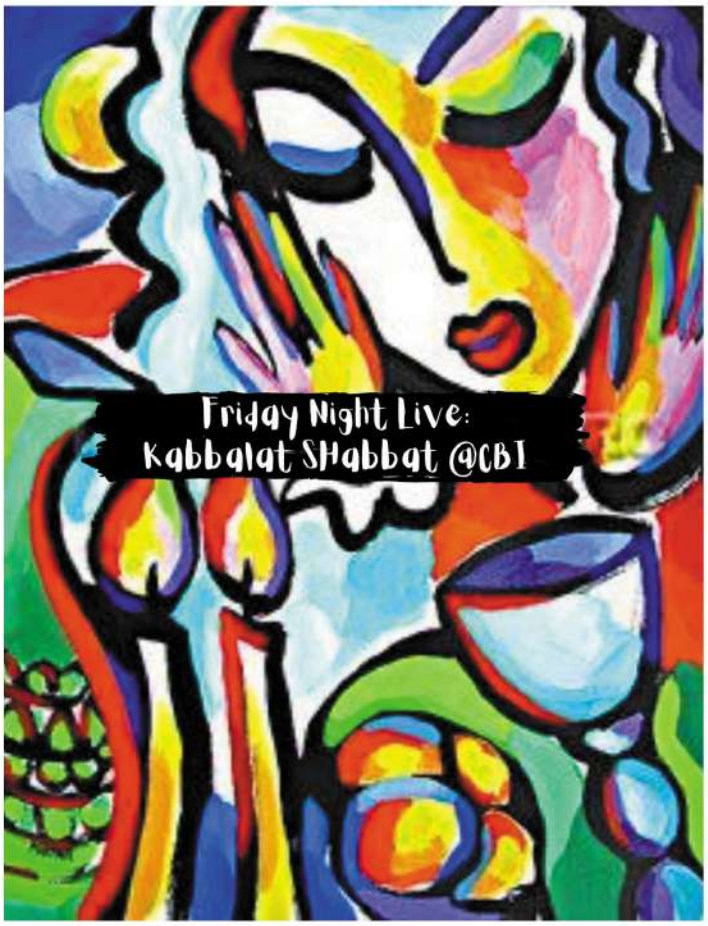
I feel that Robin had all these qualities in one person: she was quiet yet strong, feisty when she needed to be yet humble, supported her husband's endeavors but was not afraid to call him out for his errors in behavior, who deferred when necessary but who asserted herself when the situation called for it. She was, in other words, the personification of equilibrium, and I know that's what she brought to her's and Richie's lives.

Proverbs says the Living must take to the Heart. We have lost Robin in this lifetime and on this earth, but let us never forget the qualities and spirit that she gifted all of us to continue living a life worth living. We all have stories and vignettes of Robin that brings a smile to our face, a chuckle to our hearts, and inspiration to our spirits. Let her noble and giving spirit permeate ours as we support Richie and his entire extended family with this tremendous loss.

It's definitely what Robin would want, and will be her legacy. If Robin is the person that we all thought of when we need peace, grounding, and equilibrium in our lives—"what would Robin do?"—that is quite a legacy indeed.

May the soul and spirit of Robin Krauss—Rochel Leah bat Chava—find its rightful place in the supernal worlds, and may she and her memory be an inspiration to us all.

Upcoming Events



The Launch of
Musical Kabbalat Shabbat @CBI

Join us these Friday nights

@7:30 PM

August 19

September 16

October 21

Oneg to follow services

RSVP required by
the Wednesday prior.
Text or call 917-446-7983.

Bring a friend and family

Save The Dates

High Holiday Schedule

2022/5783

Rosh Hashanah

September 26, 10 AM

September 27, 10 AM

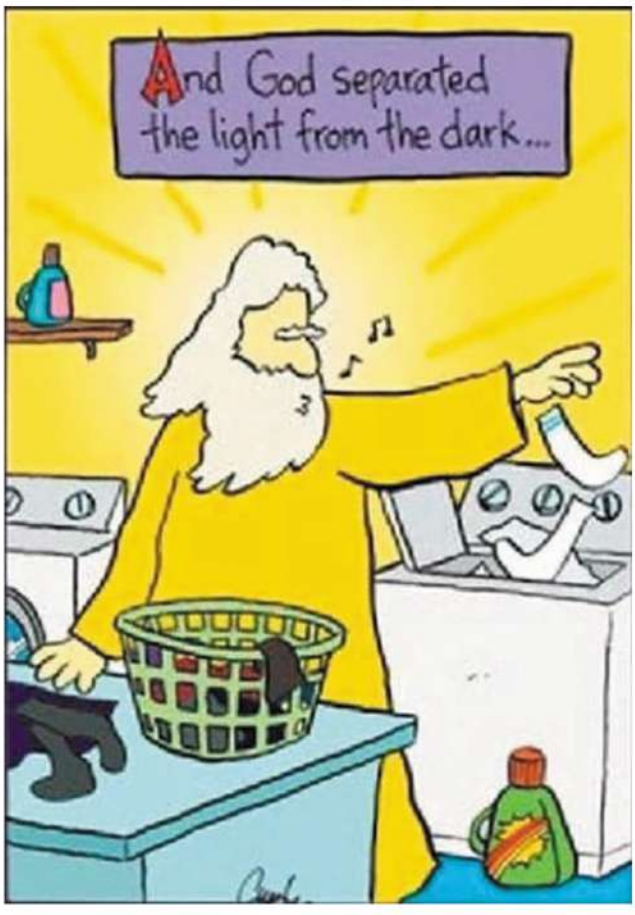
Yom Kippur

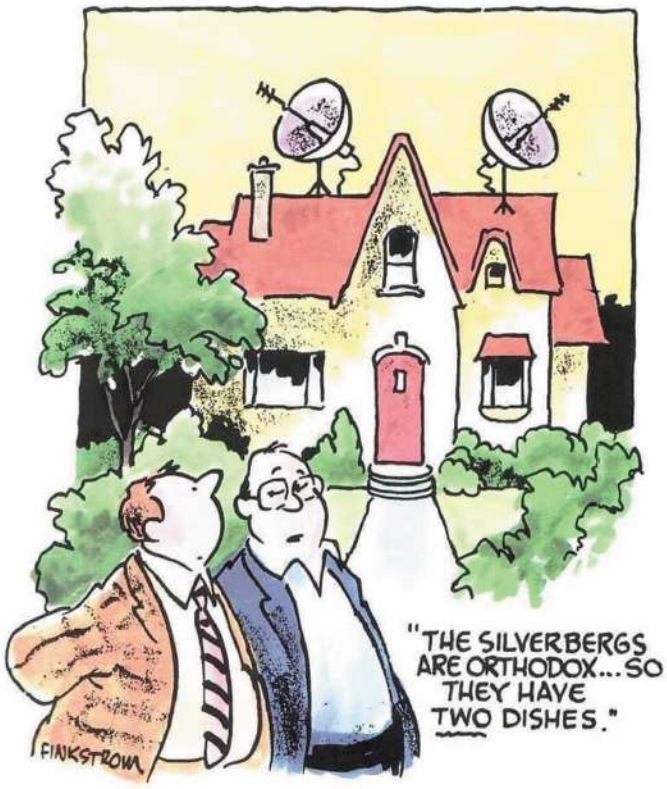
Kol Nidrei: October 4, 6:30 PM

Yom Kippur: October 5, 10 AM

Neilah: October 5, 5:30 PM

Reserve Your Holiday Seats Now





Lighten Up!

CBI Game Day: MAHJONG
Every Tuesday @noon at CBI
All Levels Welcome
Cover: $5
Bring your lunch and friends
Must be Vaccinated
RSVP by Monday to
Judi Slatsky at
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The Rabbi Speaks

Dear friends,

It's hard to believe the summer is here already, but we are in the thick of it. No turning back now. The heat is sweltering, and the humidity is right there with it here in the NY metro area. We are there.

In Judaism, the summer, though relaxing and a time for outings and vacations, is also the precursor to the High Holiday season. It's the proverbial "calm before the storm." And when I say "storm" I don't mean a destructive storm, but a constructive one. You know, the kind that gives much-needed water and sustenance to a parched landscape in a short amount of time. You know, that winter storm in Israel that suddenly refills the Kineret (Sea of Galilee) by a whole bunch, and the country's water shortage is alleviated (at least, for a bit).

The High Holidays are that kind of storm. One that brings us the spiritual energy that we need for the coming year, especially in this day and age of exiting the trauma of the Covid-19 era. I hope we are there for this High Holiday season.

This year we will be together in person, and I look forward to seeing all of you. I have already seen so many of you are our most recent in-person events, and I look forward to seeing more of you.

Community is all about the people in it. The more that participates, the better it gets. And the better it gets, the more people—also from the outside—participate. Chicken or egg conundrum? I'll let you figure it out, but I'll see you in Shul.

Going forward, we will also be conducting Friday Night/Kabbalat Shabbat services as well (starting once a month and going from there), so if you can't make it on Saturday morning, be sure to be there Friday nights (please see the flyer above).

We are trying to cater to all of your spiritual needs, so please ask me if you feel like a need of yours is not being met. If I can accommodate you and it fits in with our culture, I'd be glad to oblige your request.

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish our president, Dr. Richard Krauss, much peace and comfort as he moves along in his journey after the passing of Robin. These past several months (and years) have been very hard on him, and we are all here to support him as he undergoes this transition in his life. He will be back at the helm sooner than later, and when he is ready for that, I know that he will exhibit the same kind of dynamic leadership that he has displayed in the past. All in due time.

I wish you all a healthy and rejuvenating summer, and I look forward to seeing and hearing from all of you.

Warmly,
Rabbi Abe

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- Non-Denominational
- Friendly Rabbi
- Beginners Welcome
- Affordable Rates

Rabbi Abe

July/August Yahrzeits

- Irving Rothman 7-01
- Samuel Skulsky 7-02
- Benjamin Ginsberg 7-05
- Abigail Robayo 7-05
- Marin O. Cedeno 7-07
- Molley Janvey 7-07
- Fred Mishket 7-07
- Fannie Becker 7-10
- Edna Weinstein 7-16
- Esther Hanft 7-18
- Anna Shillet 7-21
- Seymour Rosen 7-21
- Saul Bouer 7-25
- Sonia Kuperberg 7-26
- Fannie Glasser 7-29

- Elaine Broder 8-01
- Isidore Guberman 8-02
- Sol Jaffe 8-10
- Ida Rothman 8-10
- Susan Zalkin 8-10
- Alan Glanzer 8-12
- George Baker 8-14
- Pearl Gottlieb 8-15
- Harry G. Levin 8-15
- Alexander Goldberg 8-16
- Saul Steinger 8-16
- Max Weisman 8-16
- Lee Louzin 8-17
- Bella Wolff 8-21
- Isidore Becler 8-24
- Doris Schacter 8-25
- Paul Rossman 8-28
- Milton Levine 8-29
- Abe Janvey 8-30
- Ruth Guberman 8-31
- Gloria Landsman 8-31
- Rose Shulman 8-31

Contributions

In Memoriam & Yahrzeits

Amy Zaum (Yizkor, in memory of my parents, Blanch &n Nathan Zaum, brother-in-law Steve Sorin, and Yahrtzeit of my father, Nathan Zaum)

Marianne Baker (Yahrtzeit of my husband, George Baker)

Roberta Bouer (remembering my dad, Saul Bouer)

Sondra Bernstein (Yarhtzeit of my father in law, Herman Bernstein)

Angela & Abraham Sabbas (Yarhrtzeit of Angella's mother, Maria Cedeno)

Muriel Levine (Yahrtzeit of my mother, Anna Shillet)

Marianne Baker (in memory of Robin Krauss)

Alan Mantis (in memory of Robin Krauss)

Lynn Sevan (in memory of Robin Krauss)

Robin Cinnamon (in memory of Robin Krauss)

Roberta Bouer (in memory of Robin Krauss)

Richard Krauss (in memory of my wife, Robin Krauss, and to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund)

Matilda Lovinger (in memory of my father, Samuel Hercovcci, my husband, Dave Lovinger, and Robin Krauss)

Ilene & Robert Rothschild (in memory of Robin Krauss)

Angela & Abraham Sabbas (in memory of Robin Krauss)

The Small Family Charitable Trust (in memory of Stanley Small for the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund)

Marsha Mandell (Yahrtzeit of Fannie Mandel)

Rick Schwartz (Yahrtzeit of Gail Terry Schwartz)

Linda Krull (June 19 Yahrtzeit of Edith Dolgow)

Linda Krull (June 12 Yahrtzeit of Joseph Dolgow)

General Donations

Alan Mantis (in honor of Muriel Levie's 98th birthday)

Marianne Baker (to wish Luis Robayo well in his new home)

Yael Coppolino (in memory of brother, Shlomo Dov ben Sara & Shmuel (for the Kiddish fund))

Ellen Zimel (Thank you for such a joyous and welcoming Shabbat Service and Kiddish)

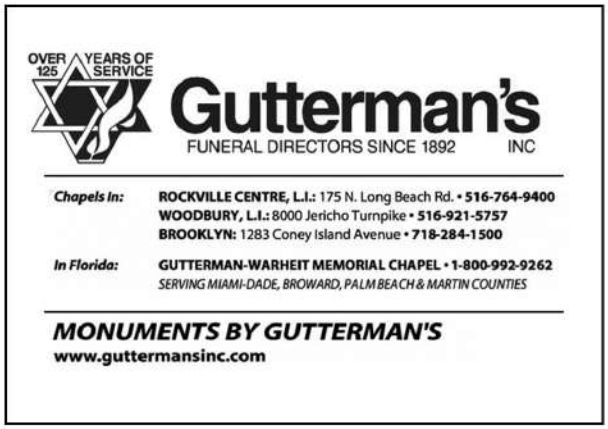
Sandra Goodman (Thank you for such a joyous and welcoming Shabbat Service and Kiddish)

Promote Your Business

Looking to promote your business, professional services, or the opening of a new venture?

Consider supporting our synagogue by advertising in our monthly newsletter.

Please reach out to info@cbicg.org or 516-489-1818 for more info.



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